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CITY OF NEWPORT
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 7, 2022

The City Council of the City of Newport, Arkansas met in regular session Monday March 7, 2022 in the chambers of the Municipal Courtroom. Regular Council Meetings are being held once a month due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Mayor Stewart called the meeting to order. City Clerk/Treasurer Hembrey called the roll. Council members present were Michael Allen, Regina Lake, Leroy Mansko, Andy May and Julie Moss. Council Members Carol Falwell, Kathy Green, and Donny Ivie were absent.

Following the invocation by Julie Moss, those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion by Allen and second by Moss to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2022 Meeting carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Lake, Mansko, May and Moss.

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REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Stewart had the following reports:

- 20 • Mayor Stewart stated the State of City Address will be held at the next Council Meeting.
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- 22 • The January 2022 Financial Statements for the General Fund, Street Fund, 911 Fund, Fed Aid Grant Fund, Sewer Fund and Newport Airport Commission were given to each Council Member. Mayor Stewart asked that each Council Member review the financial statements and direct any questions to City Clerk/Treasurer Hembrey or to him.
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- 27 • City Sales Tax received in February was up over the same period last year by approximately \$31,000, County Sales Tax was up approximately \$23,000 and NEDC Sales Tax was up approximately \$16,000.
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UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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THIRD READING OF ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THAT THE OFFICE OF CITY ATTORNEY SHALL BE AN APPOINTED POSITION

35 Mayor Stewart stated that a few citizens had inquired about the Ordinance but did not have an objection to the change. City Attorney Pettie stated that no one had filed for the City Attorney position for the current election cycle. A motion made by Allen and second by Mansko to read the third reading by caption only carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Mansko, Moss, May and Lake. City Attorney Pettie read the Ordinance by caption only. A motion by Allen and second by Mansko to accept the Ordinance establishing that the office of City Attorney for the City of Newport, Arkansas, shall be an appointed office carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Mansko, Moss, May and Lake.

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NEW BUSINESS:

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RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION FOR ARKANSAS COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM GRANT

49 After discussion, City Attorney Pettie read a Resolution authorizing the Mayor of Newport to submit an application to the State of Arkansas for grant funds, under the Community
50

51 Development provisions of the Arkansas Community and Economic Development Program,
52 and to expend funds to accomplish such community development activities in its entirety. A
53 motion by Moss and second by Lake to accept the Resolution carried (5/0) with “yes” votes
54 by Allen, Moss, Mansko, Lake and May.

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56 **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ADMINISTRATIVE AGREEMENT WITH WHITE**
57 **RIVER PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, INC. FOR AEDC GRANT**
58 **FOR STREET IMPROVEMENTS**

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60 After discussion, City Attorney Pettie read a Resolution authorizing the Mayor of Newport,
61 Arkansas to enter into an administrative agreement with the White River Planning and
62 Development District, Inc. in its entirety. A motion by Allen and second by May to accept
63 the Resolution carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Moss, Mansko, Lake and May.

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65 **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTS FOR**
66 **DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY GRANT FOR PARKING LOT**
67 **IMPROVEMENTS**

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69 After discussion, City Attorney Pettie read a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute all
70 documents for the Delta Regional Authority Grant for parking lot improvements in its
71 entirety. A motion by Allen and second by Mansko to provide additional funds for
72 engineering fees and/or construction in the amount of \$27,851 to said award, through local
73 city funds carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by Moss, May, Lake, Mansko and Allen. A motion
74 by Lake and second by May that in the event of an administration change, the new Mayor
75 shall continue to have such authority under the Resolution carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by
76 Allen, May, Mansko, Moss and Lake. A motion by Allen and second by Mansko to accept
77 the Resolution designating and appointing Mayor David Stewart to perform all duties and
78 administration for the Delta Regional Authority Grant carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by May,
79 Mansko, Moss, Allen and Lake.

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81 **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH**
82 **PROVENCE CONSTRUCTION FOR PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENTS**

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84 After discussion of the Outdoor WIFI Accessibility Park, City Attorney Pettie read the
85 Resolution authorizing the Mayor of Newport to enter into a contract with Provence
86 Construction of Cave City Arkansas for \$204,165 in its entirety. A motion by Allen and
87 second by Moss to accept the Resolution carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by Lake, Mansko,
88 May, Allen and Moss.

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90 **ORDINANCE NAMING PUBLIC STREET GREENWAY BOULEVARD**

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92 Mayor Stewart stated that Greenway Equipment, Inc. has requested that the portion of
93 Jackson County Road 259 that is within the city limits of Newport, Arkansas be named
94 “Greenway Boulevard” in honor of the new facility being built by Greenway Equipment, Inc.
95 After discussion, City Attorney Pettie read the Ordinance in its entirety. A motion by Allen
96 and second by Mansko to suspend the rules in their entirety and forego the 2nd and 3rd
97 readings carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by Allen, Moss, Mansko, Lake and May.

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99 A motion by Mansko and second by May to accept the Ordinance carried (5/0) with “yes”
100 votes by Allen, May, Mansko, Moss and Lake.

102 **ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 3.04.02 FOR PURCHASING**
103 **REQUIREMENTS FOR BIDDING**

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105 City Attorney Pettie read the Ordinance in its entirety raising the maximum amount of
106 purchases allowed without competitive bidding beginning on July 28, 2021 to \$35,000.

107 A motion by May and second by Mansko to suspend the rules in their entirety and forego the
108 2nd and 3rd readings carried (5/0) with “yes” votes by Mansko, Lake, Moss, Allen, and May.

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110 A motion by Allen and second by Moss to accept the Ordinance carried (5/0) with “yes”
111 votes by Allen, May, Mansko, Moss and Lake.

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113 The Ordinance has an emergency clause that requires a 2/3 vote of the Council. Only 5
114 Council members were present therefore the emergency clause will be voted on at the next
115 Council Meeting.

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117 **KEVIN LEE TO ADDRESS COUNCIL FOR:**

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119 • **CONTINUE DISCUSSION ON CHANGING STREET NAME TO DR. MARTIN**
120 **LUTHER KING, JR. STREET**

121 • **DISCUSS SWIMMING POOL**

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123 Mayor Stewart recognized Kevin Lee. Mr. Lee spoke of the importance of recognizing Dr.
124 Martin Luther King, Jr. After discussion on a major street being renamed Dr. Martin Luther
125 King, Jr., Council Member Allen suggested the new bridge being built over the White River
126 being named after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Mayor Stewart stated he will contact the
127 Arkansas Highway Department concerning this and report to the Council at the next meeting.

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129 Mr. Lee inquired about the swimming pool being reopened. Mayor Stewart stated several
130 issues with reopening the swimming pool and the major issue being finding certified
131 lifeguards to work the pool. Mayor Stewart stated that Mr. Philip Brown had even tried to
132 run the City Pool but had the same issue of finding certified lifeguards.

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134 With no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

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136 PASSED AND APPROVED THE 4TH DAY OF APRIL, 2022

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MAYOR

140 ATTEST:

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143 CITY CLERK